

HOLLISTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2013 at 7:00 PM, Holliston Town Hall

ISSUE DATE: July 24, 2013

PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Herb Brockert, Martha Ellis, Melissa Halstead, Ken Henderson, Mark Kaplan, Matt Varrell and Robert Weidknecht

ABSENT

VOTING MEMBERS: Marc Connelly

GUESTS: Ed Daniels, Ben Flanagan

PREPARED BY: Mark Kaplan

COPIES TO: Jay Leary, Board of Selectmen
Michelle Johnson, Finance Committee
Paul LeBeau, Town Administrator
Elizabeth Greendale, Town Clerk
Karen Sherman, Town Planner

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1.Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 29, 2013 Meeting. Melissa Halstead moved to accept the minutes of the May 29, 2013 meeting of the Holliston Trails Committee. Ken Henderson seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

2.Scout Project.

- a. Ben Flanagan, Scout Project: Ben reported that he successfully completed phase two of his Eagle Scout project to construct and install a kiosk at Blair Square. Ben organized volunteers who worked for approximately 136 hours on the project. The Trails Committee thanked Ben for his efforts and resulting significant trail improvements.

3.National Honor Society – Leadership Project.

- a. Alaina Fierro: Robert Weidknecht reported that Alaina will start her project soon, which involves cleaning up the portion of the trail between Hopping Brook Road and Chestnut Street.

4.Intergenerational Trail Work: Ken Henderson reported that 22 8th graders spent half a day participating in a trail cleanup of the portion of the trail from Cross Street to Phipps Tunnel.

- e. Brumber Excavating. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment for screened top surface mix for the Rail Trail in the amount of \$1,479.60, to be paid from the DCR \$64K grant. Melissa Halstead seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.
- f. Holliston Oil. Ken Henderson moved to authorize payment for fuel for construction equipment to be used on the Rail Trail in the amount of \$490, to be paid from the DCR \$64K grant. Melissa Halstead seconded the motion, and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

7. Grant Applications:

- a. TIP-CMAQ funding. Robert Weidknecht reported that The Commonwealth will not allow these federal funds to be used for property acquisition purposes. In order to obtain these funds, the Trails Committee would be required to raise money to acquire the right of way and incur appraisal, engineering and other costs at the rate of \$2 million per mile of constructed trail. In addition, any portion of the trail constructed with these funds would be required to be constructed with pavement, rather than the stone dust surface planned for the entire Holliston trail. After discussion, the Trails Committee unanimously agreed that these construction costs were disproportionate to the costs needed to construct a safe and compliant rail trail through Holliston consistent with the design of the completed section of the trail between Hopping Brook Road and South Street, and would not be an appropriate use of taxpayer money. Accordingly, the Trails Committee will not pursue this grant and will instead ask Representative Dykema and Senator Spilka to seek to change the Commonwealth's policy of prohibiting the use of these funds for property acquisition, which such use is allowed in many other states.

8. Trail Construction: an abutter at 37 Zane Circle in Milford has claimed that fill placed near an existing drainage pipe installed on the Rail Trail has caused basement flooding. The Trails Committee reviewed the details of the drainage pipe installation and does not believe the trail work is the source of the drainage problem.

9. Concert at Blair Square. The Trails Committee will have a booth at the July 2, 2013 concert at 7 p.m.

10. Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on July 24, 2013 at 7 p.m.

11.Meeting Adjournment. Ken Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Herb Brockert seconded the motion, and the vote for adjournment was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Weidknecht', is written over the text 'Respectfully Submitted,'.

Robert Weidknecht - Chairman